

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on November 1, 1927, in the American Museum of Natural History, with fourteen members and four visitors present.

Mr. Chapin described the entomological episodes of the week of August 7-4, spent in western Connecticut where low mountains, 1,000-1,640 feet elevation, with abandoned farms, spruce bogs, and hardwood forests made interesting collecting. It was in part the region in which Mr. Woodruff collected and includes the Halsted Mountain Forest Reserve. *Cicindela harrisi*, and the albino form of *Colias* were among the specimens shown, besides a number of unidentified insects from the spruce bogs and the pitcher plants which grow there.

Mr. Leng spoke of his "Sixteen Years' Secretarial Service," distributing copies of the history of the society printed in 1918 and continuing the records of attendance, etc., to date. He placed on record the services of Miss Helen M. Martin and Miss Agnes L. Pollard in typewriting these minutes during these sixteen years; and, after commenting on the lack of mention of such taxonomists as Casey, Fall, and Rehn & Hebard in Imms' "Text Book of Entomology," pointed out that the foundation of the science rests primarily on the collector of insects, and those who name the insects thus caught. The encouragement, by field meetings, social gatherings, perhaps even by prizes for beginners, should therefore not be entirely neglected.

Messrs. Lemmer, Engelhardt, Mutchler, Angell, Nicolay, and Dr. Lutz took part in discussion of the Society's Local Collection intended for such encouragement for beginners. A vote of appreciation of Mr. Leng's work as secretary was passed.

Mr. Engelhardt spoke of Dr. Schwarz's feeble condition as his 84th birthday approached, but said he still spends half a day at the museum and is mentally active though unfortunately his speech is impaired. He spoke also of Dr. Howard's retirement and of the excellent care of Col. Casey's collection under Mr. Buchanan's labors.

Mr. Angell spoke of the sale of the Wenzel collection to the Ohio State University.

Mr. Davis recorded *Colias eurytheme* at St. George, Staten Island, October 22, as an additional evidence of its abundance in 1927.

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at the American Museum of Natural History, on November 15, 1927, at 8 P. M.,

with President Henry Bird in the chair and twenty-four members and six visitors present. Mr. E. L. Bell was elected Secretary *pro tempore*.

Mr. Barber reported that at a meeting of the executive committee the question of a donation from the Society for the purpose of entertaining guests during the meeting of the International Congress had been discussed, but that no decision had been reached.

Mr. Ezekiel Rivnay, 2050 Harrison Avenue, Bronx, N. Y., was elected to membership.

Mr. Davis reported the death of Archibald Weeks, on Sunday, November 13th.

Mr. Sheridan, on behalf of the New York Microscopical Society, extended an invitation to the members of the Society, to attend the exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History on November 19, in commemoration of their 50th Anniversary.

Dr. L. O. Howard spoke of efforts to raise a fund for the entertainment of our foreign visitors during the meeting of the International Congress; that \$10,000 was expected from the Carnegie Peace Society and that they hoped to get donations from other Societies; that some visitors would come from England, Dr. Horn would come from Germany, but very few others from the Continent as they did not have the money to spare for this purpose; a total of forty European visitors would be doing very well; tentative plans for their entertainment included a trip to Niagara Falls, and possibly to Washington.

Mr. Barber, under the title "Collecting Hemiptera at Indian Lake," gave a brief description of the lake and the surrounding terrain. He described his method of collecting on an exposed hill-side by searching amidst the dead leaves and sparse vegetation, frequently pulling up and shaking over his sifting cloth clumps of grass, moss and various weeds. In this method of collecting the ground-frequenting Lygaeidae were the most numerous. Many were still in the nymphal form and of considerable interest was the fact that the brachypterous forms predominated over macropterous forms. During August of 1921 and the same month this year he took altogether twenty species of Lygaeidae, seven of which were also palaeartic. In order to throw some light on the relative abundance of certain species he placed on the blackboard in parallel columns several lists representing the result of Lygaeidae collecting in the north—Drake and Van Duzee, the east—Smith's List of New Jersey—the west, Gillette's Colorado List and the south—his own Florida List. He further brought out the fact that several families of Heteroptera were either absent entirely in northern New York or were represented by very few species. On August 16 he collected the Hemiptera on a measured area 3 x 12 for three hours and reported the capture of 106 specimens representing twenty-two species. Other forms of life were not recorded. He exhibited the specimens collected, some 1,400 in number.

His remarks were briefly discussed by the members, Dr. Howard saying that particularly interesting results were shown by Mr. Barber's exhibition

of specimens collected in a small, restricted area, and stressed the importance of intensive collecting over small areas, as little was known of the enormous numbers of small insects which are continually at their work of destruction.

Under the title "Notes on Collecting in Virginia" Mr. W. T. Davis gave an account of his visit, in August, 1927, to the home of Col. Wirt Robinson, near the James River, in Nelson Co., Virginia, mentioning a number of the interesting animals and plants that he had seen, especially those associated with the insects exhibited to the Society. Some of the observations will appear as short notes in the JOURNAL. He showed a *Papilio turnus*, 110 millimeters in expanse of wings and an *Argynnis cybele* of 92 millimeters, stating that some of the butterflies grow to a much larger size in Virginia than they do in New York, and that the black females of *turnus* considerably outnumber the yellow ones. He showed an aberration of *Junonia cænia*, and stated that he and Col. Robinson had seen a house wren capture one of these butterflies on August 13. In early morning he had found the clear-wing moth *He maris diffinis* on a chip of wood beneath a bush, where it had no doubt spent the night, and the sphinx moth *Ampelophaga myron* among some dead leaves on a tree, where it had prepared to spend the day. Nine examples of *Catocala epione* were found on August 19 flat on the ground of a tree-shaded dirt road, some in the ruts and uneven places. Along this same road, as well as on other roads, many large horse-flies were seen sucking in the damp places. Those collected or examined with a glass, were *Tabanus sulcifrons* and *Tabanus atrata*, and the observation of Col. Robinson, that as in *Papilio* and *Colias* among butterflies, only males suck mud, seemed to be fully borne out. A considerable enemy of *Papilio* butterflies, is the dragonfly *Dromogomphus spinosus*, and one was shown with the *asterias* that it had captured. *Hagenius brevistylus* was also shown as one of the enemies of *Papilio*. Among the beetles exhibited there was a *Pasimachus depressus* that had been observed for a considerable time scratching about on the ground among dead leaves in the hot sun; a number of *Leptotrachelus dorsalis* that had been found hidden between the stem and leaves of the grass *Panicum stipitatum*; several *Ludius attenuatus*, a specimen of which was captured by Col. Robinson while it was flying in good form with one of its elytra missing; many *Buprestis rufipes* that had been taken on the trunks of dead beech trees, and a *Leptura emarginata* that was captured as it flew across an opening in the woods. *Vespa carolina* wasps were stated to have been chiefly responsible for cleaning the skeletons of two rattlesnakes and a corn snake, and a *Vespa maculata* was seen to catch several of these wasps and then let them go. The *maculata* had probably mistaken them for flies, although one *Vespa* will sometimes catch and devour another wasp.

Several additions have been made to the published list of the *Orthoptera* taken about Wingina, that now numbers eighty-nine species. *Cicadas* were very scarce and *Tibicen chloromera* was the only species taken, a great contrast to the year 1921 when six species were in great abundance. Mr. Davis stated that not only do particular species of our large black and green

Cicadas appear occasionally in great numbers, but even more interesting is the fact that several species are likely to thus appear in the same locality the same summer, thereby producing a *Cicada* year. There are evident advantages to any species with a life cycle of more than one year, to appear as adults at the same time, thus increasing the chance of meeting others of their kind.

Mr. Davis' paper was discussed by the members.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on December 6, 1927, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Henry Bird in the chair, with twenty members and seven visitors present.

The Program Committee reported Dr. Bertha Chapman Cady as the speaker for December 20.

On motion by Mr. Mutchler, subscription to *Insecta* part of *Zoological Record* was ordered.

Mr. Stanley W. Bromley, *c/o* American Cyanamid Sales Co., 535 Fifth Ave., N. Y. City, was elected a member.

Miss Irene D. Dobroschky was reinstated as a member.

Messrs. Angell, Mutchler, and Davis spoke of the forthcoming List of N. Y. State Insects.

Mr. Mutchler spoke also of the Florida List which Dr. Leonard had undertaken, and the president referred also to publications by the Academy of Sciences on Porto Rico lists, several of our members being at work on the Entomological volumes.

Mr. Nicolay made an interesting address on "Beetling at Mt. Mitchell, North Carolina," describing the automobile road to the summit, the rainy weather he and Mr. Quirsfeld had encountered, and the meager accommodations found at the inn. This mountain is about 6,700 feet in height and was, until commercially cleared, covered with rhododendron, azalea, and coniferous trees, especially above 4,000 feet. It still affords good collecting. Some of the species obtained were the Cychrini, *Stenostomus canadensis*, *Maronetus hubbardi*, *Scaphinotus aeneicollis*, *S. irregularis*, the Carabids, *Platynus gracilentus*, *Trechus hydropticus*, the longhorn *Anthophilax hoffmani*, all originally found by Beutenmuller, and several interesting Rhynchophora, *Paraplinthus shermani*, *Hypomolyx picens*, and *Trichalophus foveirostris*.

Mr. Nicolay prefaced his remarks by a reference to the lamented death of Frank R. Mason, his companion on many previous expeditions, who died May 30, 1927, aged 45, as a result of a clot on the brain.

Miss Dobroschky spoke, under the title of "Entomological Notes from Europe," of three months spent in England, France, Germany, Austria, and Hungary, visiting museums and entomologists and including attendance at the Tenth International Zoological Congress at Budapest. Dr. Howard, by a happy accident, was her traveling companion both ways on the ocean; and

among the entomologists encountered were Imms, Davidson, Edith Patch, Story, Austin, Elsner, Maidel, Horvath, Thompson, Ellinger, Swaine, Horn, Marsh, Schulder, Mell, Komarik, Silandi, Harnisch, Martini, Schulz, Emerson, Prell, and others.

Dr. Felt spoke of the 400 odd species found last summer on the roof of the Education Building in Albany, especially of those which were not included in the New York State List.

MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 1927

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., on December 20, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Henry Bird in the chair, with nineteen members and nine visitors present.

The Librarian reported accessions.

The Program Committee reported Dr. Leonard as the speaker at the next meeting.

Mr. Edgar Nelson, 56 West 70th St., New York City, and Mr. C. H. Ballou, Japanese Beetle Laboratory, Moorestown, N. J.,* were elected members.

Dr. Lutz reported attendance at the Ottawa meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario, commenting on the fine *esprit du corps* which existed in Canada and giving some details of the establishment of the Entomological Department in the Provincial Museum at Victoria.

Mr. Davis, having completed twenty-four years' service as treasurer of the Society, expressed a desire to be excused from further service.

The president appointed as a Nominating Committee Messrs. Barber, Mutchler and Watson. In doing so he thanked the officers and committee for their efficient service during the past year, and commented with satisfaction upon the excellent showing the Society's members made in the fourth edition of "American Men of Science."

Dr. Cady read a paper on "A Study of the Supposed Toxic Properties of Insect-Infested Cereal Food Products." After stating the popular belief that such infested products were unfit for food, even for cattle, and the consequent annual destruction of about 3 per cent. of the stored product, amounting to an economic loss of \$200,000,000 yearly, she proceeded to show that every recorded test contradicted the popular belief. She then gave the results of her own carefully conducted experiments in which 153 animals, albino rats, guinea-pigs, and Himalayan rabbits were fed, some for 227 days, on different infested cereals. The animals were divided into test and control groups, the latter being fed on clean cereals, and no injury whatever to either young or mature could be discovered. The conclusion was that, while the unpleasant odor of insect-infested cereals makes them unpalatable to human beings, they acquire no toxic properties and are entirely suitable for cattle food.

The paper was discussed by several members. Mr. Davis testified to the bitter taste of heavily infested oatmeal, the unpleasant odor of *Calandra* larvæ, and suggested that different species would give different results. One might eat *Calandra* without damage, but a heavy dose of Dermestids might lay us out.

Mr. Sim and Mr. Ballou gave some account of the new Japanese Beetle Laboratory on a thirteen-acre farm near Moorestown, N. J., where buildings 70 ft. long, greenhouses, etc., are devoted to research work by the cooperation of the Bureau of Entomology with the Agricultural Departments of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Mr. Sim told of his experiments with *Onthophagus cribricollis* indicating an unexpectedly short larval period.

Mr. Angell spoke of a letter received in regard to American subscriptions to the expenses of European entomologists visiting us next year; also of the distribution of *Dorcus nanus* not including New York State.